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Britton and Brown's Illustrated flora

This well known work, issued in 1896, has reached a second edition.[3] About 300 pages have been added to the text, and the number of species has been increased from 4162 to 4666. Every species is illustrated, and one sees at a glance that the illustrations have been made more effective. This appeal to the eye in distinguishing species is a great contribution to students of the flora represented. It is not merely a service to amateurs, but the professional botanist who is not a taxonomist, but who must know his material, finds his labor of determination vastly lightened. Even for the professional taxonomist, the admirable drawings clear up the vagueness that belongs to many descriptions. In preparing the new edition, good service has been done also in testing out the numerous "new species" that have been described since the first edition. The enthusiasm for new species has been recognized, and the sober second thought has been applied. Some have been relegated to synonymy; others have been noted for further study; and of course some have been accepted.

The area included is probably well known, but a statement of it may be helpful. It extends from the Atlantic Ocean westward to the 102d Meridian, so as to include the whole of Kansas; and northward from the parallel of the southern boundary of Virginia and Kentucky to the northern limits of Labrador and Manitoba. The western limit is crossed only to include the whole of Nebraska.

The nomenclature follows the code recommended by a commission of the Botanical Club of the American Association in 1907, and therefore is somewhat at variance with the Vienna Code of 1905. A unique and extremely valuable feature of the work is the citation of the type species of each genus. So far as the reviewer knows, this has never been done on so extensive a scale, and it must have meant an enormous amount of labor.

The authors are to be congratulated upon this fresh and very helpful contribution to the botanists of the country. Probably not all can own these three large volumes who can own a manual, but they should be so distributed in libraries as to be accessible to all who wish to name plants within the area included.—J. M. C.

A plant chemistry

Plant physiologists will welcome the appearance of HAAS and HILL'S[4] treatise on the chemistry of plant products. Section I (49 pp.) is devoted to fats, oils, waxes, and phosphatides; II (116 pp.) to carbohydrates; III (23 pp.) to glucosides; IV (41 pp.) to tannins; V (30 pp.) to pigments; VI (19 pp.) to nitrogen bases; VII (17 pp.) to colloids; VIII (42 pp.) to proteins; and IX (68 pp.) to enzymes. The book is especially written for plant physiologists, and apparently gives the several subjects their proper proportional consideration as demanded by the aim. It is a very simple, direct statement of the cardinal facts of the subject, giving the main methods, chemical and microchemical, used in the field. The avoidance of a technical form of presentation makes the work usable by those of slight chemical training. In discussing chlorophyll, the authors make the barest mention of the older work on the subject, done, as they say, in the main with impure products. The discussion is based on the late work of WILLSTÄTTER and his students, and of TSWETT. This gives in the simplest and most direct way the picture of our present knowledge of chlorophyll. The treatment of chlorophyll is typical of the method of the book and shows one of its great virtues. No mention is made of the important work of IWANOW on metabolism of fats, but this could hardly be expected, since the book deals with little literature of a later date than 1910. The treatise is one that every plant physiologist and probably every botanist dealing at all with the physiology of plants will want on his desk.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

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[3] BRITTON, N. L., and BROWN, A., An illustrated flora of the Northern United States, Canada, and the British Possessions. Second edition, revised and enlarged. In three volumes: Vol. I (Ophioglossaceae to Polygonaceae), pp. xxi+680; Vol. II, (Amaranthaceae to Loganiaceae), pp. iv+735; Vol. III (Gentianaceae to Compositae), pp. 637. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1913.

[4] HAAS, PAUL, and HILL, T. G. An introduction to the chemistry of plant products. 8vo. pp. 401. London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1913.

MINOR NOTICES

Nigerian plants.—The British Museum has published[5] a catalogue of the plants of the Oban District of South Nigeria collected by Mr. and Mrs. P. AMAURY TALBOT during 1909 to 1912. The determinations have been made by several specialists, and the collection has proved to be unusually rich in novelties. Of the 1016 species and varieties enumerated, 195 are new, and among them are 9 new genera, as follows: *Alphonseopsis* and *Dennettia* (Anonaceae), *Crateranthus* (Myrtaceae), *Afrohamelia*, *Dorothea*, *Diplosporopsis*, and *Globulostylis* (Rubiaceae), *Scyphostrychnos* (Loganiaceae), *Talbotia* (Acanthaceae), and *Amauriella* (Araceae). The new species are distributed among 31 families, those receiving the largest additions being Rubiaceae (34), Acanthaceae (21), Orchidaceae (20), and Apocynaceae (12).—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Caprification.—BAKER[6] has published an interesting study of caprification in a Philippine *Ficus*. On some trees of *Ficus nota* there are produced pear-shaped inflorescences which when mature contain gall flowers and staminate

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[5] RENDLE, A. B., BAKER, E. G., WERNHAM, H. F., and MOORE, S., Catalogue of the plants collected by Mr. and Mrs. P. A. TALBOT in the Oban District, South Nigeria. pp. x+157. *pls. 17.* London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1913.

[6] BAKER, C. F., A study of caprification in *Ficus nota*. Philippine Jour. Sci. **8**: Section of Gen. Biol. 63–83. 1913.